



Penny Bernard Schaber

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 57th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Save Our Schools

Rep. Bernard Schaber is prioritizing schools, fiscal responsibility and job training

MADISON – On the steps of the Capitol today, Democrats unveiled a new initiative which they hope will be a bipartisan win for public education throughout the state and will be included as an amendment to the upcoming state biennial budget.

The plan makes public education funding a priority in the state budget, will result in lower property taxes, restores \$20 million in funding to worker training through technical colleges, pays down state debt and implements State Superintendent of Education Tony Evers' Fair Funding proposal.

Democrats unveiled the plan at a press conference surrounded by school superintendents and administrators, school board members and other groups that support a strong Wisconsin education system.

"Budgeting choices reflect our values and priorities," Rep. Penny Bernard Schaber said. "As I have been listening to constituents talk about the budget, one of the messages I hear most frequently is that we need to protect education. Our plan not only supports our public schools and technical colleges, which are so vital to job training, it demonstrates strong fiscal responsibility."

The plan uses \$40 million that Gov. Walker dedicated to expanding vouchers for private education combined with the projected state revenue increase as reported last week by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. It allocates \$200 million to repay the Injured Patients' Compensation Fund and reduces debt restructuring by \$100 million alleviating pressure on Wisconsin's structural deficit. The plan also creates a minimum aid of \$3,000 per pupil and transfers first dollar credit and school levy credit to the equalization aid.

These, along with other small tweaks to the funding formula, allow more than 85% of state districts to see increased funding above what they would receive under Gov. Walker's plan. No district receives less.

It also reverses Gov. Walker's lifting of income limits on the private school voucher program and requires voucher school students to take a new statewide test when it is completed. The current spending for the voucher program and independent charter schools is still protected from reductions in their per pupil aid.

"This plan will reduce property taxes by lessening education costs imposed on local communities," Bernard Schaber said. "It is our hope that a plan that benefits students, the Wisconsin economy and taxpayers will receive bipartisan support."

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